

Willie James **BENFORD**



*The Angels
are Waiting at
Heaven's Gate for*

Pallbearers
Nephews

Flower Bearers
Nieces

Interment
New Enon Baptist Church

Acknowledgement
The family of Willie James Benford would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions. Your phone calls, visits, flowers, thoughts, and prayers have all helped greatly during our time of bereavement. May God continue to bless each of you, is our prayer.

Professional Services Entrusted To



THE MADISON CHAPEL
1086 Ward Road
Madison, Georgia 30650
(706) 438-3210

"SERVICE AS GOOD AS ITS PROMISE"

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Willie James
BENFORD

SUNRISE SUNSET
April 18, 1939 November 10, 2025

Monday, November 17, 2025
11:00 AM

NEW ENON BAPTIST CHURCH
2410 Godfrey Road
Madison, Georgia 30650

Reverend Brince Benford, Officiant
Reverend Bernard Hamp, Eulogist

Obituary

LIFE AND LEGACY
Mr. Willie James Benford, the son of the late Thomas and Fletcher Mae Benford, was born on April 18, 1939, in Newborn, Georgia. He graduated from Pearl High School and later continued his education at Athens Technical College, where he studied Mechanics.

Willie proudly enlisted in the United States Army, where he fought and served honorably in the Vietnam War. Following his active-duty service, he continued to serve his country in the U.S. Army Reserves, from which he also retired.

After his military career, Willie dedicated many years to serving his community as a Deputy Sheriff with the Morgan County Sheriff’s Department. He faithfully protected and supported those in his community with integrity and compassion.

A devoted man of faith, Willie was a loyal and dedicated member of New Enon Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Albert Baker.

A LIFE WELL LIVED
Willie loved fishing and could often be found enjoying peaceful days on the lake. He was a master storyteller who brought joy and laughter to everyone he met.

He was an avid Atlanta Braves fan—faithful through every win and loss, though quick to say he was “through with them” after a tough game. Above all, Willie cherished spending quality time with his beloved family and friends.

Willie was well known and deeply loved in his community. His kindness, service, and genuine spirit touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

TRANSITION TO ETERNAL REST
On November 10, 2025, at his residence, Willie transitioned peacefully to eternal rest to be with the Lord.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Benford, Sr., and Fletcher Mae Benford; beloved wife, Hazel Marie Benford; and brothers, Johnny Benford, Sr., Thomas Benford, Jr., Benny Paul Benford, Sr., and Rufus Benford, Sr.

CHERISHED MEMORIES
He leaves to cherish his precious memory: two sons, Donnie (Rena) Benford and Eric (Shelia) Benford; three daughters, Connie (Robert) Tolbert, Wilma Lewis, and Adrienne (Jason) Hall; two sisters, Florida Mae Bailey and Betty Mathis; one brother, Robert Benford, Sr.; grandsons, Marcus Tolbert, Marcus Benford, Bobby McGahee, and Javis Benford; and granddaughters, Melba Wade, Erica Lewis, Sherna Tolbert, Kourtney Ford, Jomiah Weaver, Renica McGahee, Ashley McGahee, Gabrielle Hall, and Giuliana Hall. He was also blessed with eleven great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and special friends.

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS
Willie’s life was one of service, faith, and love. His strength, compassion, and humor will be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know him. Though he is no longer with us in body, his spirit and legacy will live on in our hearts forever.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”
— Matthew 25:23

Order of Service

- PROCESSIONAL
- MUSICAL SELECTION
Tomeka Hawkins
- PRAYER
Reverend Resbie Jordan
- SCRIPTURE READINGS
Old Testament – Reverend Hoke Smith
New Testament – Pastor Robert Terrell
- REFLECTIONS
Open, Two Minutes Please
- MUSICAL SELECTION
Tomeka Hawkins
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- EULOGY
Reverend Bernard Hamp